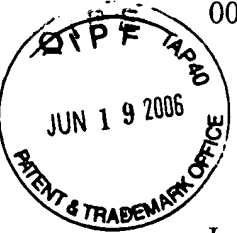


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PATENT APPLICATION



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	
	:	Examiner: G. Mruk
YOSHIMASA ARAKI, ET AL.)	
	:	Group Art Unit: 2853
Appln. No.: 10/806,156)	
	:	
Filed: March 23, 2004)	
	:	
For: DISCHARGING APPARATUS AND)	
REMOVING METHOD	:	June 19, 2006

Mail Stop Amendment
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Sir:

Applicants respectfully traverse the election of species requirement set forth in the Office Action dated May 18, 2006.


A careful review of the specification reveals that the two species are closely related and would not require separate fields of search. Accordingly, neither Applicants nor the Patent and Trademark Office should be put to the trouble and expense entailed in multiple filing and prosecution. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the public at large should not be required to obtain and study separate patent documents in order to have available all of the issued patent claims covering the invention.

Nevertheless, in order to comply with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.143, Applicants provisionally elect Species I, represented by Claim 2. It is respectfully submitted that Claims 1, 2 and 4-11 read on the elected species, with at least Claim 1 being generic.

Favorable consideration is requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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